DYNAMITE

DARK HORSE COMICS

ISSUE FIVE

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DARK HORSE COMICS

DARK HORSE COMICS
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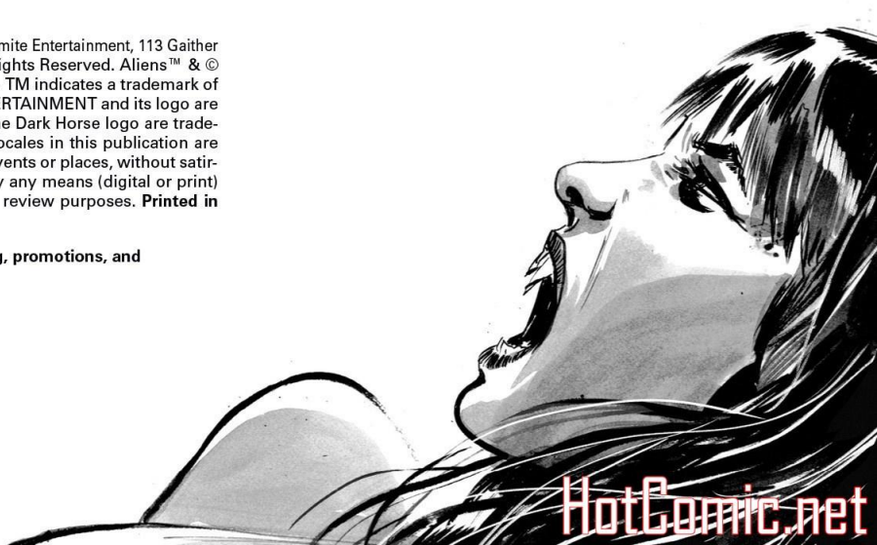

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LOOK OUT!

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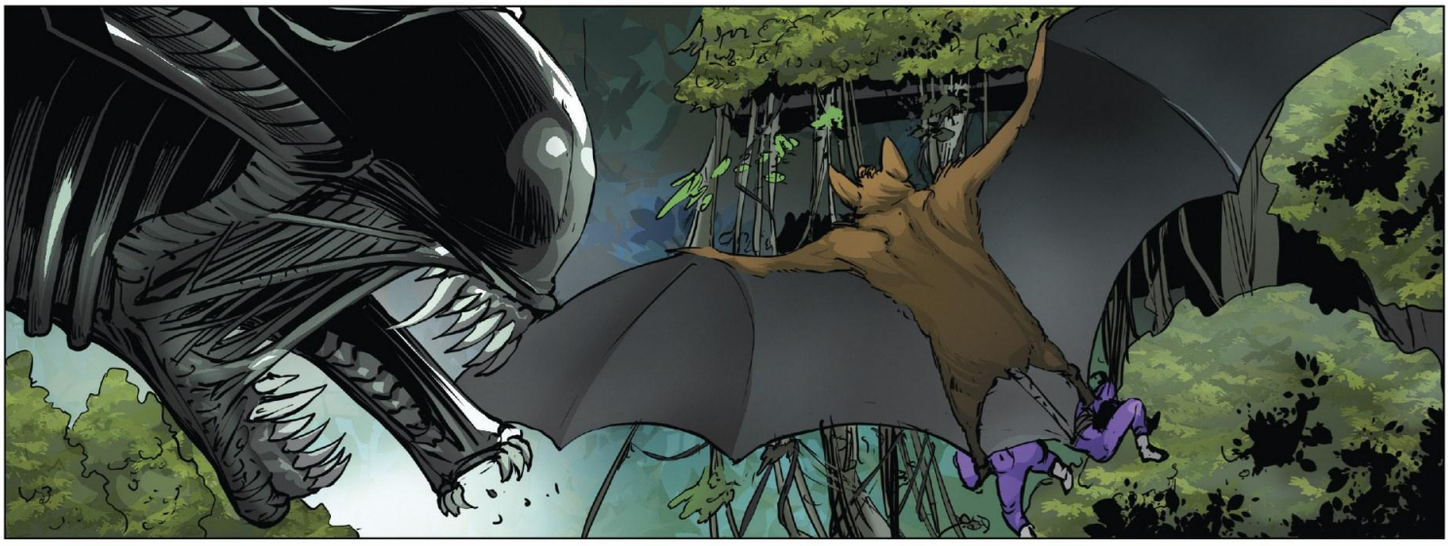

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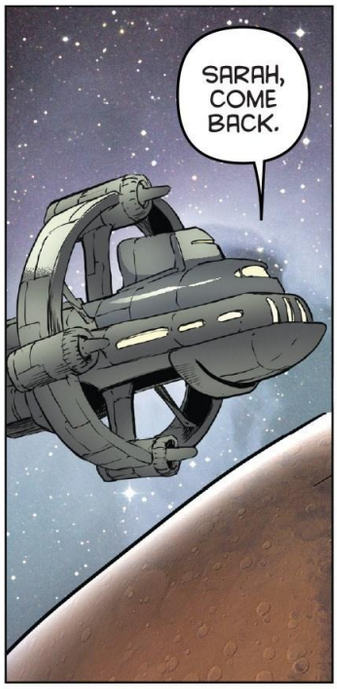
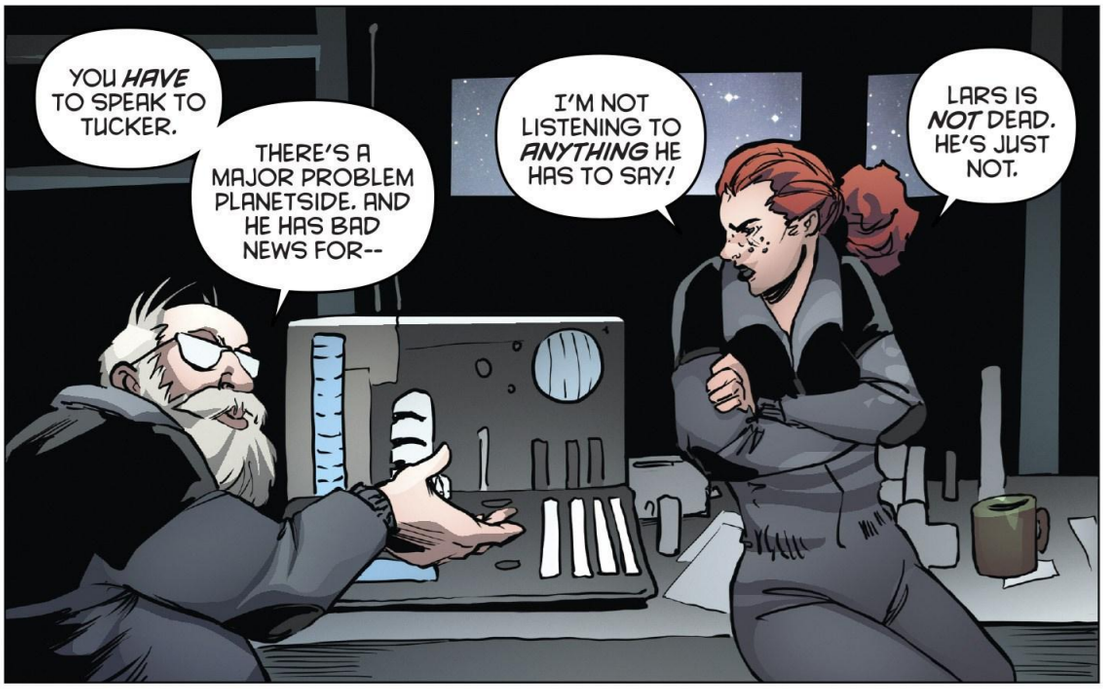
<YOU OKAY? THAT KIND OF TRANSFORMATION CAN'T BE... EASY...>

NO NEED TO SPEAK MY LANGUAGE. I HAVE THE NOSFERATU'S TALENT FOR ALL MANNER OF SPEECH.
ALTHOUGH I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD UTILIZE THE TONGUE OF A PREY ANIMAL.

HSSSSSS

WE OWE YOU A DEBT FOR THAT RESCUE. YOU COULD HAVE EASILY JUST SAVED YOURSELF.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DID IT, BUT--
WAIT--
WHA--?
LARS! BEHIND YOU!
GAAH! LET GO!
NO!





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THOSE ASSHOLES!
THEY ACTUALLY DISCONNECTED?

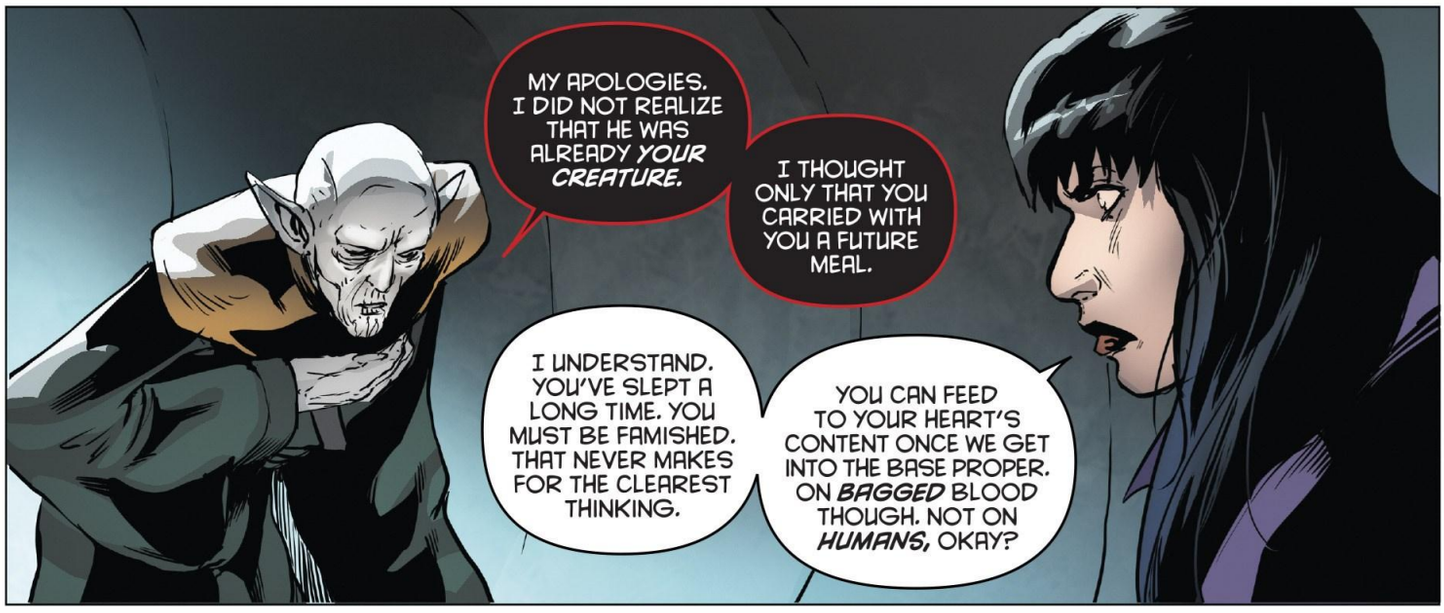
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO--
HEY, TUCKER?

WAS THAT MARTA ON THE COMM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I SAID EVERYONE SHOULD STAY IN QUARTERS!
MARTA'S HORTICULTURE SHIFT WAS DONE A LONG TIME AGO. SHE NEVER CAME BACK, FAR AS I CAN TELL. THAT WASN'T HER?

SHE'S NOT IN THE KITCHEN EITHER, OR THE LOUNGE. COULDN'T WE JUST CHECK THE VIEW INTO THE GREENHOUSE?
AFTER WE DO THAT, WILL YOU GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM?
SURE, SURE. I JUST...

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE I'M JUST BEING JUMPY.

WHAT THE HELL? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GRAPE ARBOR?
PAN LEFT.
DAMN IT, MARTA!
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THIS IN? GONNA BE MORE THAN A ONE-WOMAN JOB TO FIX THAT!
WAIT, WHAT *IS* THAT?
AAH!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
DID YOU SEE THAT?
TUCKER...
I DON'T THINK WE KILLED THEM...



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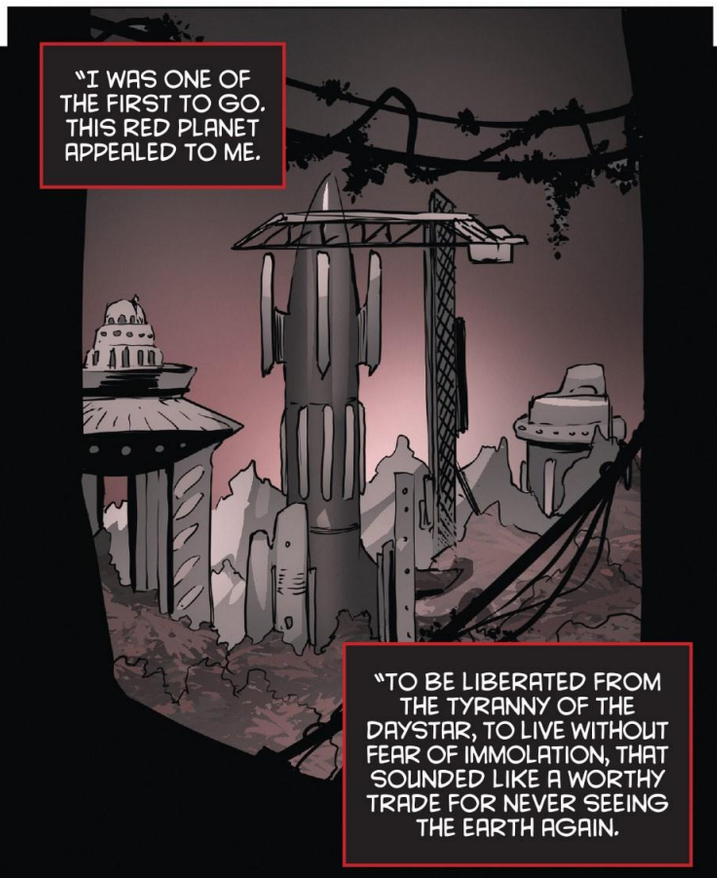

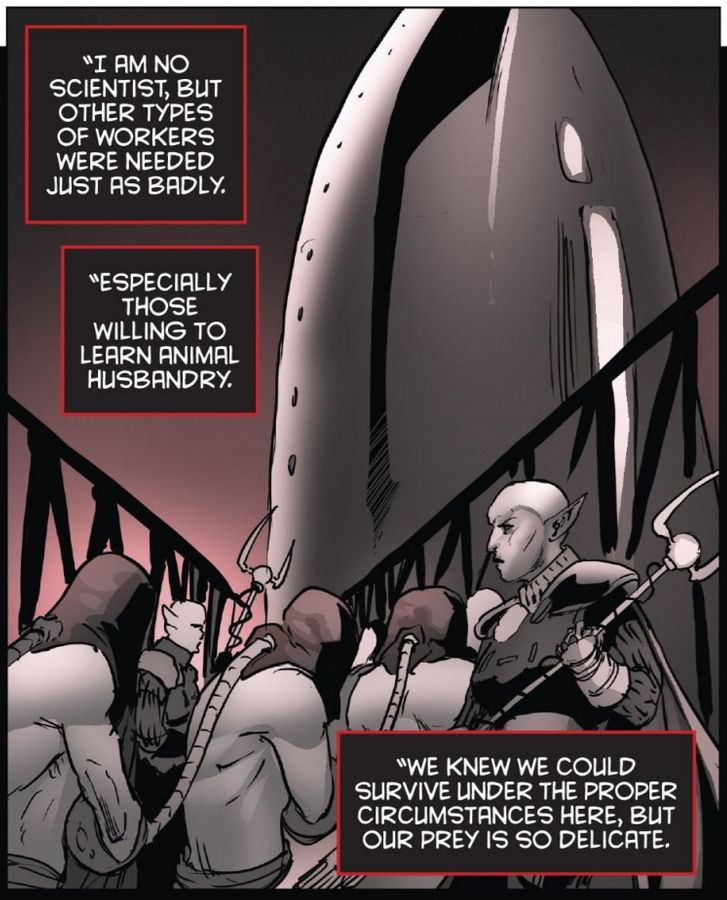

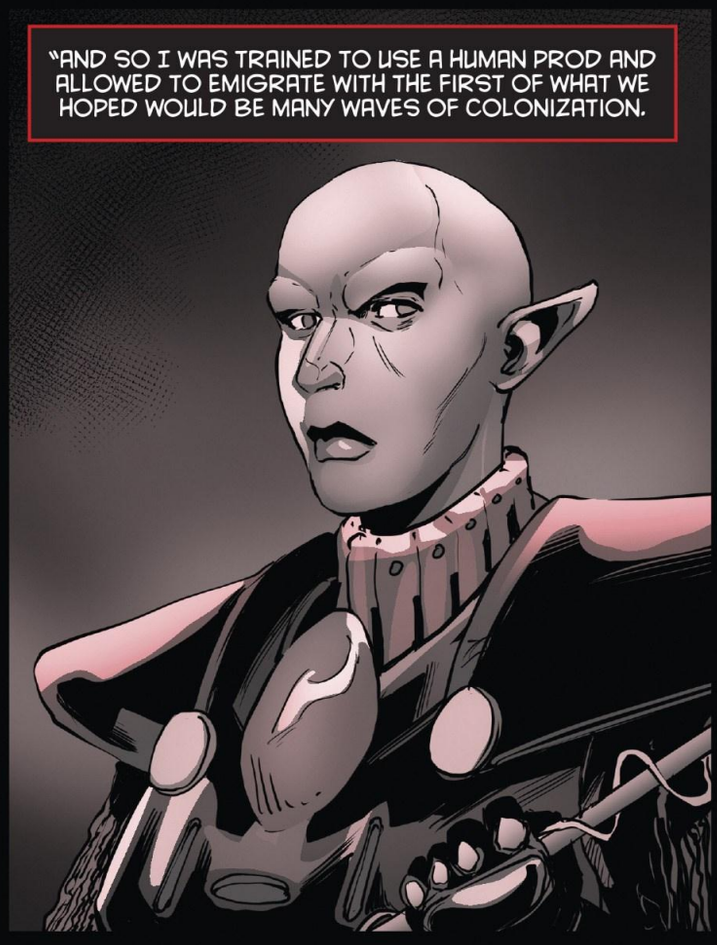

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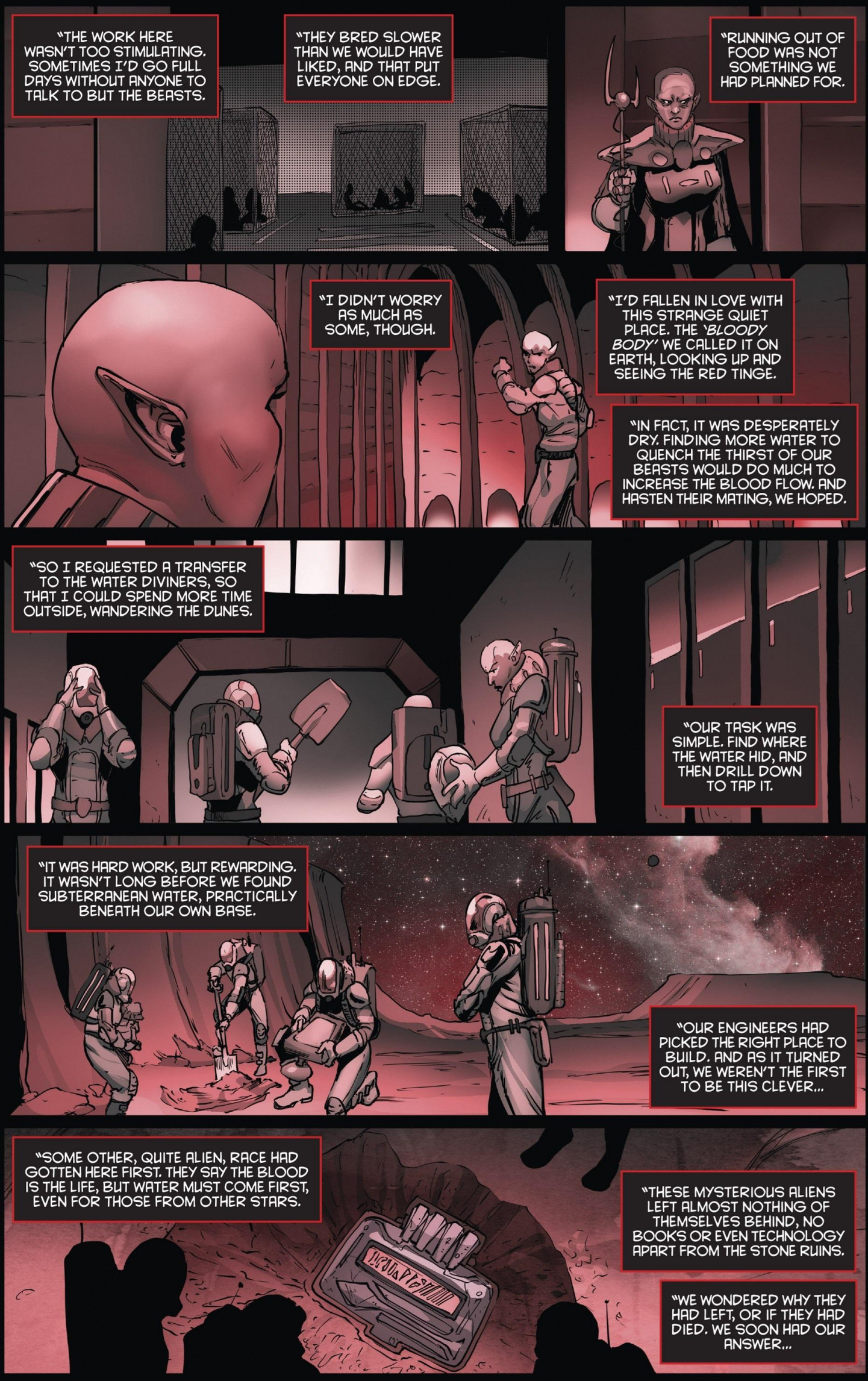
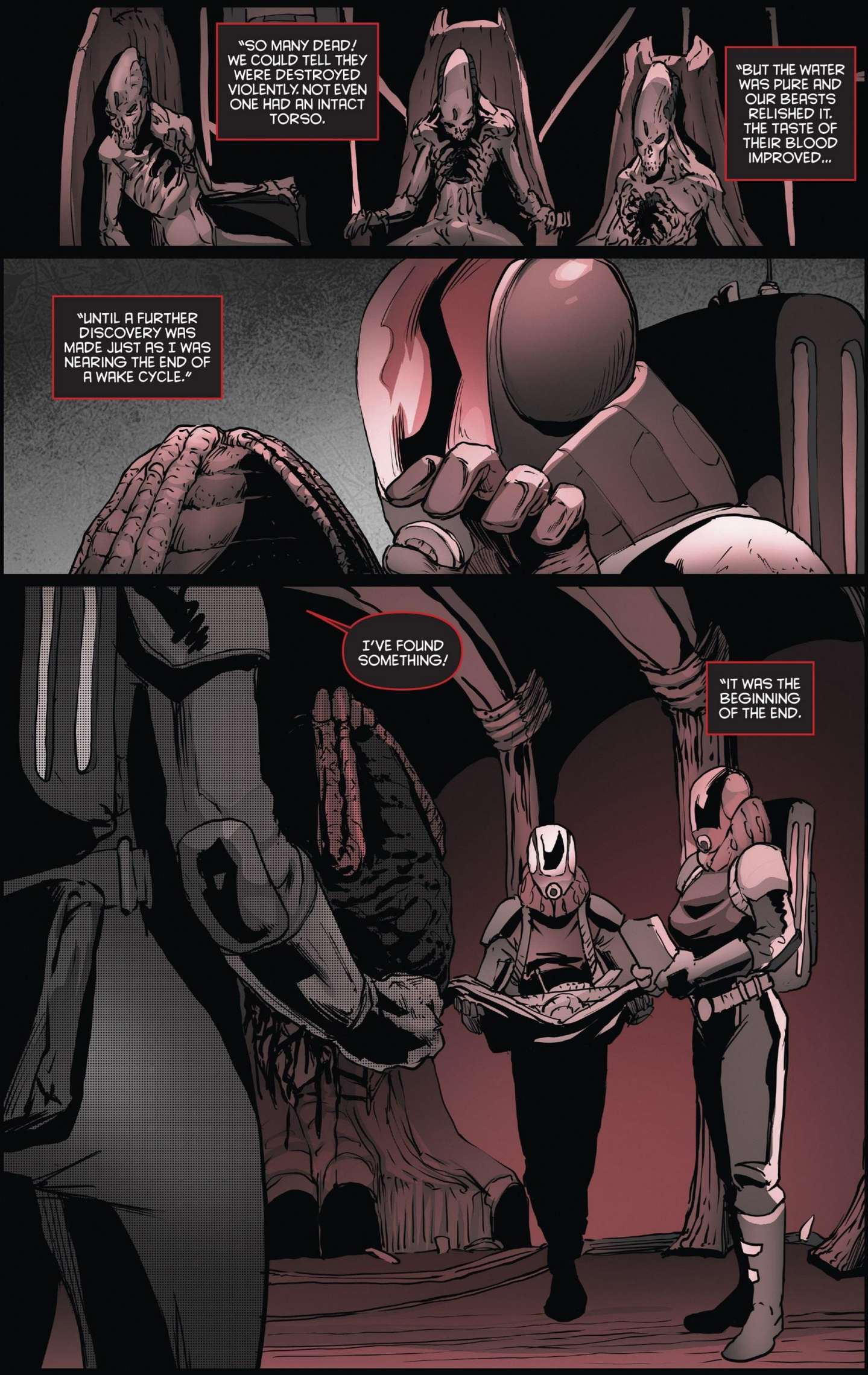
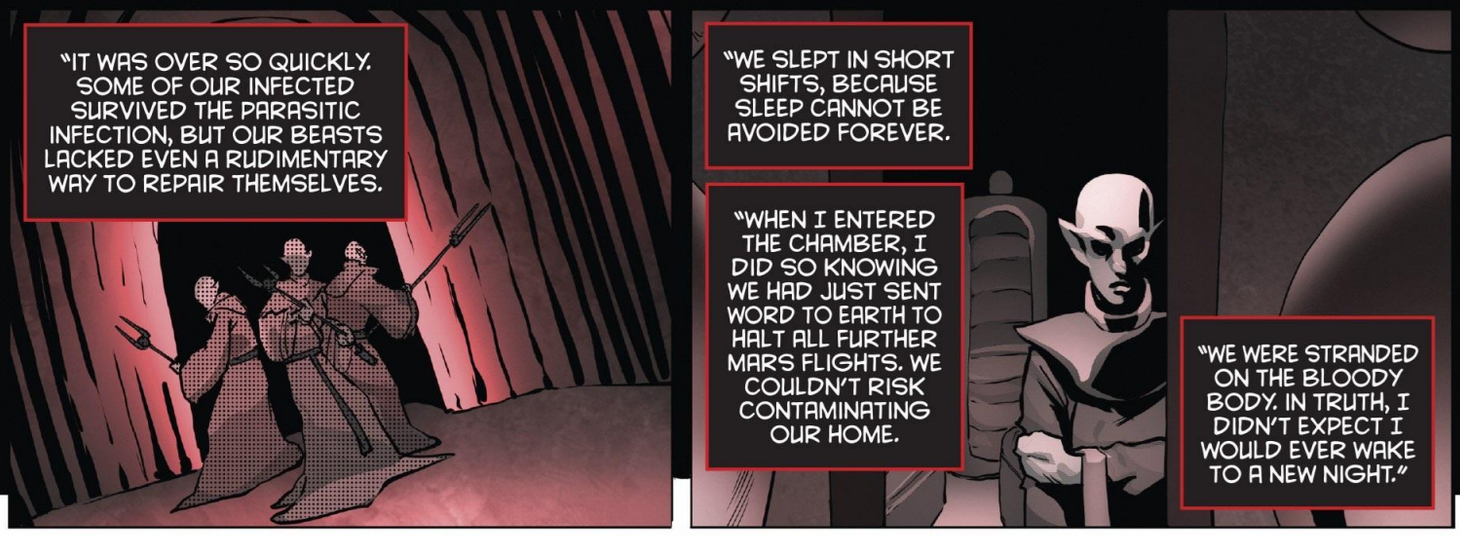

"THE WORK HERE WASN'T TOO STIMULATING. SOMETIMES I'D GO FULL DAYS WITHOUT ANYONE TO TALK TO BUT THE BEASTS.
"THEY BRED SLOWER THAN WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, AND THAT PUT EVERYONE ON EDGE.
"RUNNING OUT OF FOOD WAS NOT SOMETHING WE HAD PLANNED FOR.
"I DIDN'T WORRY AS MUCH AS SOME, THOUGH.
"I'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THIS STRANGE QUIET PLACE. THE 'BLOODY BODY' WE CALLED IT ON EARTH, LOOKING UP AND SEEING THE RED TINGE.
"IN FACT, IT WAS DESPERATELY DRY. FINDING MORE WATER TO QUENCH THE THIRST OF OUR BEASTS WOULD DO MUCH TO INCREASE THE BLOOD FLOW. AND HASTEN THEIR MATING, WE HOPED.
"SO I REQUESTED A TRANSFER TO THE WATER DIVINERS, SO THAT I COULD SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE, WANDERING THE DUNES.
"OUR TASK WAS SIMPLE. FIND WHERE THE WATER HID, AND THEN DRILL DOWN TO TAP IT.
"IT WAS HARD WORK, BUT REWARDING. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE FOUND SUBTERRANEAN WATER, PRACTICALLY BENEATH OUR OWN BASE.
"OUR ENGINEERS HAD PICKED THE RIGHT PLACE TO BUILD. AND AS IT TURNED OUT, WE WEREN'T THE FIRST TO BE THIS CLEVER...
"SOME OTHER, QUITE ALIEN, RACE HAD GOTTEN HERE FIRST. THEY SAY THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE, BUT WATER MUST COME FIRST, EVEN FOR THOSE FROM OTHER STARS.
"THESE MYSTERIOUS ALIENS LEFT ALMOST NOTHING OF THEMSELVES BEHIND, NO BOOKS OR EVEN TECHNOLOGY APART FROM THE STONE RUINS.
"WE WONDERED WHY THEY HAD LEFT, OR IF THEY HAD DIED. WE SOON HAD OUR ANSWER...


"SO MANY DEAD! WE COULD TELL THEY WERE DESTROYED VIOLENTLY. NOT EVEN ONE HAD AN INTACT TORSO.
"BUT THE WATER WAS PURE AND OUR BEASTS RELISHED IT. THE TASTE OF THEIR BLOOD IMPROVED...
"UNTIL A FURTHER DISCOVERY WAS MADE JUST AS I WAS NEARING THE END OF A WAKE CYCLE."
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
"IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

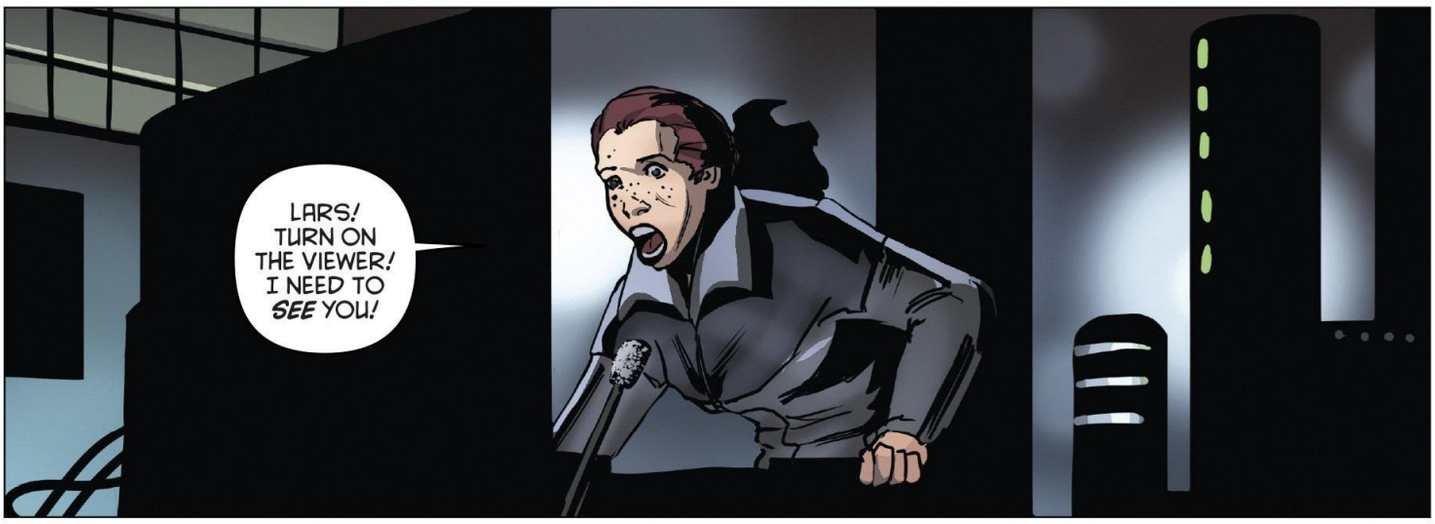

"IT WAS OVER SO QUICKLY. SOME OF OUR INFECTED SURVIVED THE PARASITIC INFECTION, BUT OUR BEASTS LACKED EVEN A RUDIMENTARY WAY TO REPAIR THEMSELVES.
"WE SLEPT IN SHORT SHIFTS, BECAUSE SLEEP CANNOT BE AVOIDED FOREVER.
"WHEN I ENTERED THE CHAMBER, I DID SO KNOWING WE HAD JUST SENT WORD TO EARTH TO HALT ALL FURTHER MARS FLIGHTS. WE COULDN'T RISK CONTAMINATING OUR HOME.
"WE WERE STRANDED ON THE BLOODY BODY. IN TRUTH, I DIDN'T EXPECT I WOULD EVER WAKE TO A NEW NIGHT."

BUT YOU CAME TO RESCUE US ANYWAY! SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED, BUT YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN US!
YOU ARE NOT WHAT I EXPECTED, BUT YOU *ARE* A VAMPIRE, AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS.
A PITY YOU DIDN'T WAIT TO WAKE ME UNTIL AFTER YOU HAD EXTERMINATED THE MONSTROUS VERMIN, THOUGH.

Um...
THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT.
AFTER WE FIND A SAFER PLACE THAN THIS. AND *AFTER* WE GET YOU A DECENT MEAL.

YOU WANT TO GO FIRST, LARS?
NO NEED. I WILL RESPECT YOUR BLOOD PACT. THOUGH I MUST SAY YOU GIVE YOUR CREATURE TOO MUCH LATITUDE. IN MY TIME WE WERE STRICTER.
THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CHANGES OVER THE YEARS.

IT'S SARAH CALLING!
CHK CHK CHK


LARS! TURN ON THE VIEWER! I NEED TO SEE YOU!

THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME, SARAH.
JUST LISTEN, OKAY?

TUCKER IS LYING TO US. HE SAID YOU WERE DEAD...
BUT FIRST HE CLEARED US FOR FINAL APPROACH.

WHAT?
NO! YOU CAN'T!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU THERE, EITHER!
YES YOU CAN! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE THINGS ARE--
THMP

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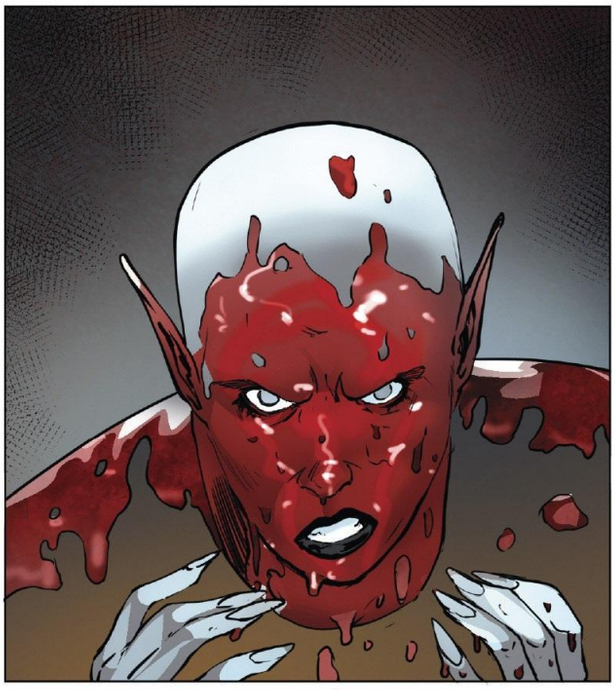
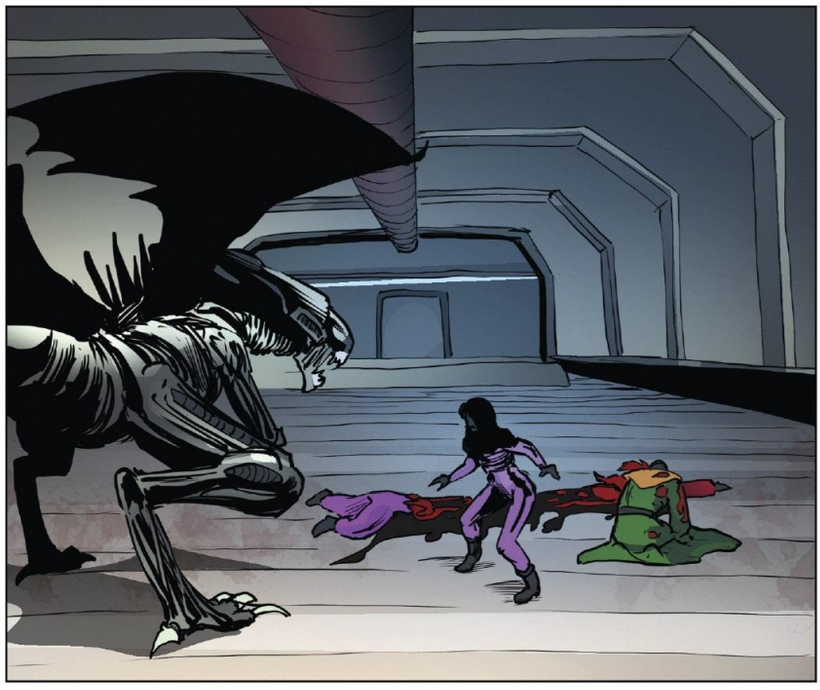
OO!
UFF!





ARREEEEEEEEEEEE

ARREEE
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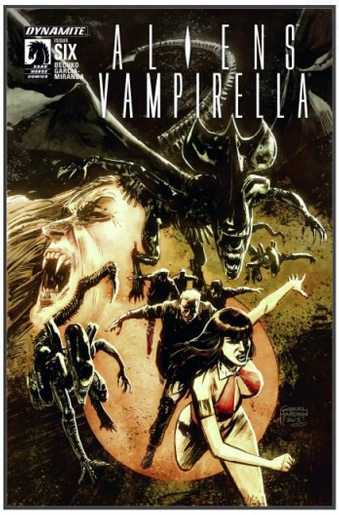
ARREEEEEEEEEEEE
ARREEEEEEEEEEEE
ARREEEEEE EEEEE
ARREE EEEEEEEEEEEE

NEVER HAVE I BEEN SO THANKFUL THAT FOOD BEASTS ARE ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY RATS.

YOU!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

NO, WAIT!
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!
TO BE CONCLUDED!



NEXT ISSUE:

Aliens / Vampirella reaches its action-packed conclusion! Can Vampirella convince the resurrected Nosferatu to unite with humanity against a common foe? Can even Vampirella survive an encounter with a Xenomorph Queen/Vampire hybrid? The fate of every person left on Mars, both living and undead, hangs in the balance!

WRITERS KATE LETH AND NANCY A. COLLINS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON DYNAMITE'S NEW MARCH TITLES

KATE LETH, Writer of the Upcoming *Vampirella* Series

You're taking the reins on Vampirella, an outright icon in horror comics. What are your favorite aspects about this enduring character?

Leth: I love the genre that Vampirella comes from. I'm a fan of classic horror, of B-movies, of monsters and things that go bump in the night. Vampirella's both classic and otherworldly, terrifying and camp. She represents a style we don't see much of anymore, and I'm thrilled to get the chance to try something new with her.

With decades of monster-hunting under her belt, Vampirella has seen threats of all shapes and sizes. What can you tell us about the foe (or foes) she'll face in the new series?

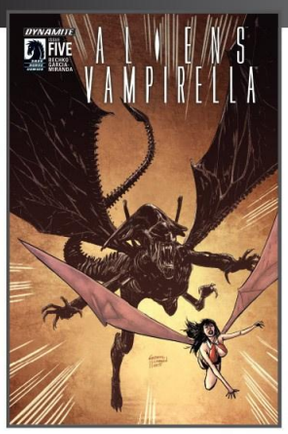
Leth: We're dealing with the long history of horror in Hollywood, all the way back to the first black and white films. We'll get to know an organization that has been turning the wheels and terrorizing productions for decades, led by a woman who's not keen on having a monster hunter in town. We open a bit tongue-in-cheek, but quickly realize there are very real dangers for Vampi in this story.

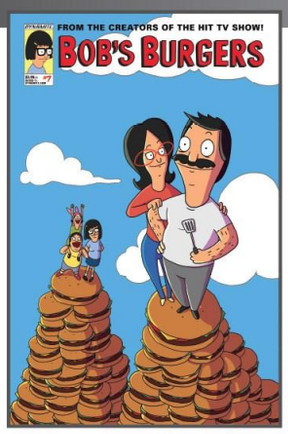
NANCY A. COLLINS, Writer of the Upcoming *Army of Darkness: Furious Road* Series

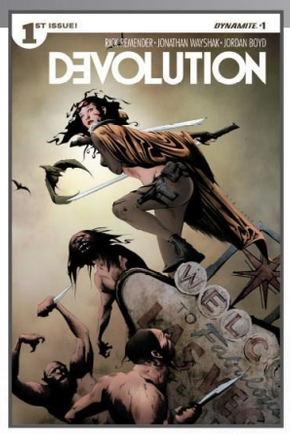
Dynamite's ARMY OF DARKNESS comics have taken Ash to outer space, the virtual reality of the future, the distant past, and to hellish dimensions. Where will your story take Ash, and why did you choose that setting?

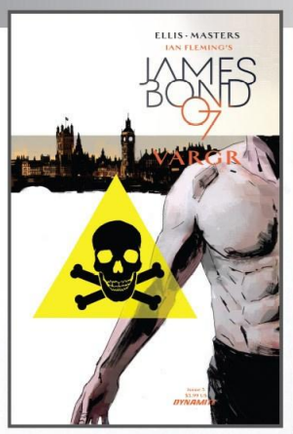
Collins: The setting for FURIOUS ROAD is 20 years "from now". Whenever "now" is. The Deadites have managed to finally spread into the world at large and everything has collapsed. We're looking at a post-apocalyptic world (at least in North America), with scattered pockets of humanity holed up against the Army of Darkness. A group of human survivors team up with some of the last surviving monsters — a pack of werewolf bikers, Dracula and his Brides, a witch, Frankenstein's Monster, etc. – to battle the Deadites. The monsters' reason for helping the humans is largely one of enlightened self-interest; they need humanity to survive, and, to be honest, the Deadites don't play well with anyone, even their fellow damned. It's up to them to send the Army of Darkness back to whatever hell they call home — and that means they need the help of the Chosen One, a.k.a. Ashley "Ash" Williams. But it's going to take some convincing. Oh, and did I mention the action is set in Michigan? The setting is a tribute to creator Sam Raimi and actor Bruce Campbell, who are from the Detroit area.

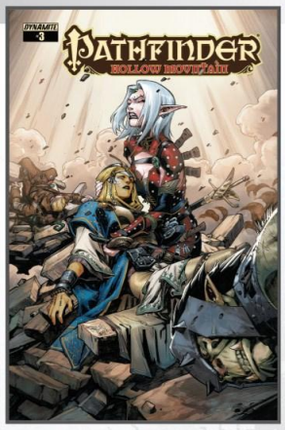
HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS | JANUARY

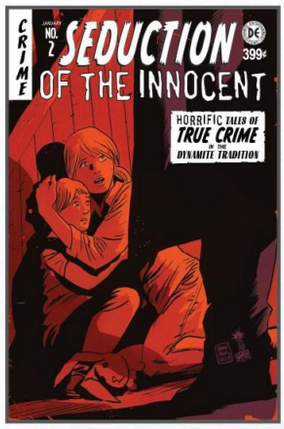












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